

POSTOFFICE ATTACKED IN CIVIC FEDERATION

Lively Three-Cornered Dispute at Opening Session Over Wage Appeals.

SETH LOW DEFENDS UNIONS

Cardinal Gibbons Presides and Judge Knapp Tells of Federal Arbitration's Value.

Washington, March 5.—The Post Office Department was a target for prominent speakers at the twelfth annual convention of the National Civic Federation, which began here today.

Attacks on the executive order which prohibits the appeal of government employees to Congress or Representatives in questions affecting wages and working conditions were made by Samuel Gomper, president of the American Federation of Labor, and Representative Lloyd of Missouri, a member of the House Committee on Post Office and Post Roads.

Joseph Stewart, Second Assistant Postmaster General, who had preceded those speakers, returned to the platform and vigorously defended the department and the Postmaster General. A lively colloquy which ensued between Mr. Stewart, Mr. Gomper and Mr. Lloyd over the interpretation of the order was terminated abruptly by the chairman ruling the proceeding off of order.

"No other department of the government has dreamed of carrying out to the letter this order," declared Mr. Gomper. "The Post Office Department has not only dreamed of it, but has actually had a nightmare over it."

Cardinal Gibbons, who presided at the morning session, spoke on the relation of capital to labor, their interdependence of each other and the growing power of union labor in its demands for betterment of working conditions and higher wages. SETH LOW, president of the federation, and Judge Knapp, of the United States Commerce Court, discussed labor conditions and the gradual tendency of both parties to arbitration of disputes. A paper on the recent strike of the street cleaners of New York, prepared by Commissioner Edwards, was read.

Other speakers were William B. Fitzgerald, vice-president of the Amalgamated Clothing Union; H. N. Kellogg, of the American Newspaper Publishers' Association; C. G. Norman, president of the New York Builders' Association, and Allan Burns, of Pittsburgh.

Denounces Lawrence Strikers.

Mr. Low declared the leaders of the Lawrence, Mass., textile strike were revolutionary socialists belonging to the Industrial Workers of the World.

"It is due to this fact," said he, "that it has been so hard to find a basis of settlement, for the revolutionary socialists do not seek a settlement of labor troubles. They are seeking a social revolution, not a social settlement."

His judgment is that the pathway to industrial peace and industrial efficiency is to be found in the hearty co-operation of employers with labor unions, in the confident expectation that when the right of workmen to collective bargaining passes unchallenged in practice, the right of other workmen to forego collective bargaining, if they wish to do so, will be equally unchallenged.

Referring to the McNamara case, Mr. Low said that it had demonstrated to organized labor that if in the future it wished to command public sympathy and confidence, "it must be prompt to disown all violence connected with the struggles of labor." He condemned with equal vigor the socialist labor leaders and the employers of labor who saw nothing more than the interests of private property. Both, he contended, stood in the way of enlightenment.

Defending the antagonism of organized labor to non-union workmen, Mr. Low said that the unions were forced to recognize in the non-union element "the club which the employer uses to deprive them of their own right to collective bargaining for their labor."

Favors Federal Arbitration.

Recommending federal arbitration of disputes between the railroads and their employees, Martin A. Knapp, presiding judge of the United States Commerce Court, prophesied that such government arbitration eventually would be extended to include other forms of business where trouble affecting the public might arise.

Judge Knapp testified to the excellence of the results derived from that section of the Erdman law which provided for federal mediation in disputes between interstate carriers and their employees when the public welfare was threatened. Such authority is reposed in the chairman of the Interstate Commerce Commission and the Commissioner of Labor, who, if their efforts at conciliation fail, may then press arbitration on the warring elements.

ASSAY OFFICE IN NEW HOME

Old Quarters in Pine Street Given Up After Fifty-eight Years.

A notice posted on the door of the United States Assay office yesterday morning declaring that the entrance was at No. 21 Pine street was the first intimation Wall Street received that the long-talked-of removal had taken place. The building closed yesterday was one of the oldest landmarks in the financial district and had been used as an assay office since 1854. Previous to that it had been the Sub-Treasury, a branch of the United States Bank and a private banking house. It was built in 1852.

The new quarters of the institution are in the rear of the old building, with an entrance at that point. The new building is a three-story structure, with a height of 110 feet, and is equipped with every modern facility used in the refining, assaying and melting of gold and silver. The work of moving the office fixtures and apparatus was completed yesterday.

It is estimated that the value of the gold that has passed through the assay office at No. 21 Wall street since 1854 exceeds \$50,000,000.

As soon as things are in shape in the new building the old structure will be demolished and a new one erected, which, upon completion, will restore the entrance to the assay office to Wall street. It will be used to house the executive offices, all the mechanical work being done in the rear building.

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